

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A moving picture coding method for coding a moving picture signal on a picture-by-picture basis and generating a coded stream, the method comprising:

a flag information generation step of generating flag information indicating that display order information or coding order information of the picture a picture order is non-sequential; and

an information insertion step of inserting the flag information into the coded stream.

2. (Currently Amended) The moving picture coding method according to Claim 1, further comprising determining that the picture order is non-sequential wherein in the flag information generation step, when values indicated by the display order information of the pictures are in non-sequential order, it is determined that the picture order is non-sequential.

3. (Currently Amended) The moving picture coding method according to Claim 1, further comprising determining that the picture order is non-sequential wherein in the flag information generation step, when values indicated by the coding order information of the pictures are in non-sequential order, it is determined that the picture order is non-sequential.

4. (Original) The moving picture coding method according to Claim 1, wherein in the information insertion step, the flag information is inserted between two pictures in the coded stream, said two pictures being non-sequential in picture order.

5. (Original) The moving picture coding method according to Claim 1, further comprising a position information generation step of generating position information for identifying a position where the picture order is non-sequential, and
wherein in the information insertion step, the position information is inserted together with the flag information.

6. (Currently Amended) A moving picture coding method for coding a moving picture signal on a picture-by-picture basis and generating a coded stream, the method comprising:

a flag information generation step of generating flag information indicating that display order information or coding order information of the picture is non-sequential;

a coding step of coding the moving picture into a predetermined coding unit and a further coding unit such that the predetermined coding unit comprises a plurality of pictures including a first intra picture and such that the further a picture in a manner in which the picture is included in a coding unit is located after a the predetermined coding unit, said and comprises a picture whose position is later than a position of a the first intra picture among the pictures included in the predetermined coding unit in display order, said predetermined coding unit being made up of a plurality of pictures; and

an information insertion step of inserting the flag information into the coded stream.

7. (Currently Amended) The moving picture coding method according to Claim 6,

wherein in the coding step, the moving picture is coded such that a display order of pictures in the predetermined coding unit is sequential, and such that the display order of the pictures in said predetermined coding unit is located earlier than a display order of pictures in a predetermined coding unit immediately following said predetermined coding unit in coding order.

8. (Currently Amended) A moving picture decoding method for decoding a coded stream on a picture-by-picture basis, the method comprising:

an information extraction step of extracting flag information indicating that display order information or coding order information of the picture a picture order is non-sequential; and

a management step of managing an area for storing a decoded picture based on the flag information.

9. (Currently Amended) The picture decoding method according to Claim 8,

wherein the flag information indicates that values indicated by the display order

information of the pictures are in non-sequential order, and

in the management step, a picture whose position is the earliest in display order among decoded pictures stored in the area is determined based on the display order information and the flag information, and the determined picture is determined as a picture to be removed.

10. (Original) The moving picture decoding method according to Claim 9,

wherein in the management step, clip information is given to the decoded picture stored in the area, said clip information being updated when the flag information is extracted, and a picture whose position is the earliest in display order among the decoded pictures stored in the area is determined based on the display order information and the clip information, and the determined picture is determined as a picture to be removed.

11. (Currently Amended) The moving picture decoding method according to Claim 8, further comprising an invalid picture storage step of storing an invalid picture in the area when values indicated by the coding order information of the pictures are in non-sequential order,

wherein the flag information indicates that the values indicated by the coding order information are in non-sequential order,

in the management step, whether or not to store an invalid picture in the area is determined based on the flag information and the coding order information, and

in the invalid picture storage step, an invalid picture is stored in the area based on a result of the determination made in the management step.

12. (Currently Amended) A moving picture coding apparatus for coding a moving picture signal on a picture-by-picture basis and generating a coded stream, the apparatus comprising:

a flag information generation unit operable to generate flag information indicating that display order information or coding order information of the picture a picture order is non-sequential; and

an information insertion unit operable to insert the flag information into the coded stream.

13. (Currently Amended) A moving picture decoding apparatus for decoding a coded stream on a picture-by-picture basis, the apparatus comprising:

an information extraction unit operable to extract flag information indicating that display order information or coding order information of the picture a picture order is non-sequential; and

a management unit operable to manage an area for storing a decoded picture based on the flag information.

14. (Currently Amended) A computer readable recording medium encoded with a computer program for coding a moving picture signal on a picture-by-picture basis and generating a coded stream, the program causing a computer to execute:

a flag information generation step of generating flag information indicating that display order information or coding order information of the picture a picture order is non-sequential; and

an information insertion step of inserting the flag information into the coded stream.

15. (Currently Amended) A computer readable recording medium encoded with a computer program for decoding a coded stream on a picture-by-picture basis, the program causing a computer to execute:

an information extraction step of extracting flag information indicating that display order information or coding order information of the picture a picture order is non-sequential; and

a management step of managing an area for storing a decoded picture based on the flag information.